

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method comprising:
receiving over a wide-area network (WAN) an indication of a preference of a user from a population of users that form a virtual community;
aggregating the preference into a database of previously received preferences from the population, the aggregation being a set of preferences; and
deriving a financial product from the set of preferences.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the financial product is a mutual fund.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
associating with each preference a ranking of a submitting user; and
screening the preferences based on the ranking.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein deriving comprises:
identifying within the set of preferences a first subset of preferences having a capitalization and a trading volume consistent with objectives of the mutual fund.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
screening the first subset of preferences based on a ranking of a submitting user to create a second subset.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein each preference represents a stock in a model portfolio of a user, the method further comprising:
ranking the model portfolio relative to a population of model portfolios;
and
incentivising submitters of high performing model portfolios.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
receiving from an investor currency units to be invested in the mutual fund;

screening the set of preferences to identify a security to be added to the mutual fund; and

establishing a new position of the security in the mutual fund.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 2 further comprising:
receiving a request over the WAN for information about the mutual fund;
and
serving a page reflecting current holdings of the mutual fund over the WAN.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the financial product is a newsletter.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
screening the set of preferences to generate a recommended list.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the screening is based on at least one of:
ranking of a submitting user, investment style of the recommended list, capitalization, average trading volume, price to earning ratio, return on investment, gross margin, and revenue growth rate over a predetermined time period; and
generating analyst reports for submitting users satisfying predetermined criterion.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:
distributing the newsletter electronically; and
updating the analyst reports and recommendations with a frequency greater than weekly.

13. (Original) A method comprising:
receiving recommendations for securities from a population of users over a wide area network (WAN);
generating a population weighted scale (PWS) for a first subset of the securities recommended; and

identifying position changes for a mutual fund from the subset of securities recommended.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein generating a PWS comprises: compiling a list of unique securities recommended by a population of users;

dollar weighting a first subset of the securities to have equal dollar weighting; and

multiplying securities in the first subset by a number of user from the population recommending the security.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising: determining an industry weighting and a sector weighting of the PWS.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising: reducing the first subset to a second subset having a predetermined discrete number of members.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein reducing comprises: automatically eliminating from the second subset securities not satisfying predetermined criteria, including at least one of: price to earning ratio, capitalization, trading volume, beta, alpha, and price to book ratio.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 16 further comprising: rebalancing the mutual fund based on existing fund weighting, an industry weighting of the PWS and a sector weighting of the PWS.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein rebalancing comprises: applying a valuation screen to the mutual fund; and allocating new money to a security from the second subset based on the application of the valuation screen.

20. (Original) A method comprising: establishing a naked fund;

receiving a request for current mutual fund information over a wide area network (WAN); and

transmitting current mutual fund information over the WAN.

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21. (Original) A method comprising:
investing in a mutual fund; and
reviewing current fund holdings data received over a WAN from a server node.
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